WL NEWS H/BIAL

November 3, 1977

Dear Mr. Mendelssohn:

When we heard about your "Freedom To Write Global Report" last week, we asked our Mission at the UN to forward a copy to this office. We have prepared a standard cable which gives a brief description of P.E.N., your Forward, then, for each post the names listed for that country. The cables were delivered to the geographic bureaus and are now being dispatched.

In recent weeks we have, in the same manner, sent the country reports of Amnesty International and Freedom House. The posts have gratefully received those documents, and I know they'll respond in the same manner to your information.

P.E.N.'s long-time concern for fellow writers is well known, as is the fact that you are willing to act on behalf of the people who need your help. It's often difficult to know what direct effect your actions and words have in a specific situation. But, there is one certainty: if you don't do anything, nothing happens.

So, I thank you for this piece of work and for your commitment to the free exchange of ideas and your willingness to stick to your principles year after year.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian
Assistant Secretary for
Human Rights and
Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Mel Mendelssohn,
Executive Secretary of P.E.N.
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